

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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PORTER AUTHORS RESOLUTION CONDEMNING GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

INDIANAPOLIS -- A concurrent resolution authored by State Rep. Greg Porter (D-Indianapolis) that condemns the genocide occurring in Darfur, Sudan, met with unanimous approval when it was presented today before the Indiana House of Representatives.

A copy of this resolution, which expresses the outrage of the Indiana General Assembly at the lack of action by the international community and calls on Congress and President Bush to step forward and provide the necessary leadership to stop the genocide, will be sent to the President and the members of the Indiana congressional delegation.

Since February 2003, the Sudanese government has backed Arab militias, known as Janjaweed, which have been systematically wiping out communities in racially-motivated attacks on African tribal farmers in Darfur. Over 335,000 innocent civilians have been killed and over 2 million have been forced to flee their homes and are now biding their time in overcrowded, disease-ridden refugee camps.

"Over 10,000 people are dying each month from disease, malnutrition or violence," said Porter. "It is not possible for us to stand back and remain silent. This is an issue that has had little media coverage and has rarely been acknowledged by politicians. We need to do something to end this murder now."

Darfur is a province the size of France located in Western Sudan. This area is populated by African tribal farmers, who primarily raise millet and cotton, and by Arab nomads who herd cattle, sheep, goats and camels. Much farmland is being lost due to the encroachment of the Sahara Desert, which is pitting the agriculturalists against herders in a fight for land.

"Darfur is deteriorating more and more each day," Porter said. "How much worse does it have to get before something is done?"